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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY	Cuba	REPORT NO.	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 80px; height: 20px;"></div>
SUBJECT	Weekly Meeting of the National Executive Committee of the Partido Socialista Popular (PSP)	DATE DISTR.	29 October 1953
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		REFERENCES	

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. The National Executive Committee of the Partido Socialista Popular (PSP, Cuban Communist Party) met on the morning of 19 September 1953.

POLITICAL SITUATION

2. In discussing the current political situation the members of the National Executive Committee referred to the current efforts being made by Colonel Carlos MENDIETA to seek a peaceable solution to the present national dilemma in Cuba. It was agreed that the PSP must not make public acceptance of MENDIETA's negotiations, but rather it must declare that his suggestions are contrary to the true solution demanded by the current state of affairs. It is the Party's hope that MENDIETA's negotiations will point out to the BATISTA government that the opportunity being presented for an electoral solution is favorable for the government, since it desires to legalize the usurpation of executive powers on 10 March 1952. The Committee also believes that the PSP will benefit from the results of these mediations. Meanwhile the Party should be guided in its future political activities by the turn of events and continue its endeavors to reach a compromise with other opposition parties for joint efforts toward an electoral success.
3. Favorable comment was made upon Dr. Juan MARINELLO's letter to Ramon VASCONCELOS, director of Alerta, which served as a means of publicizing the PSP's innocence in the Santiago de Cuba uprising and its current views. Copies of MARINELLO's letter and VASCONCELOS' favorable reply are to be sent to all Party committees.

PSP DEFENSE PLAN

4. Detailed study was devoted to the PSP defense plan, which calls for vigilance of all Party leaders and militant members, as well as discussing the activities of each Party committee. The plan also includes Party defense measures to be taken in the event that the present government policy of persecution of the PSP continues after the restoration of constitutional guarantees. If necessary, the Party will resort to violence, as advocated by Ladislao GONZALEZ Carvajal, who

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states that the PSP should respond to government violence with Communist violence. The Party will resort to sabotage, mass action, agitation, and street meeting, thus obliging the government to take restraining measures and thereby adding to its unpopularity with the Cuban people.

SMALL PLANTERS

5. In accordance with the decision reached at the 11 September meeting, Romarico CORDERO¹ delivered a report concerning the plan of agitation in support of the small sugar planters and stated that the Asociacion Campesina de Cuba under his direction will initiate and support a vigorous battle defending the small planters' demands on the large plantation owners for 55% of the crops. However, CORDERO said that no action will be possible until the restoration of constitutional guarantees, as no meetings may be organized at present and because the Rural Guard has been alerted to combat any mass concentrations. The Comision Nacional de Asuntos Campesinos of the PSP has studied and approved a plan outlined by the Asociacion Campesina de Cuba for this battle, which includes organization by the various Small Planters' Fight Commissions of each province and locality, preparation of petitions for interviews with various authorities and associations of planters and plantation owners of Cuba, and publicity for such interviews by means of the press, radio, and television. While awaiting the restoration of constitutional guarantees, preparatory steps will be taken by the Asociacion Campesina to organize action, to go into effect as soon as a normal state exists in Cuba.

FRONT GROUPS

6. The National Executive Committee held a discussion about a proposed plan of agitation to be carried on by PSP front groups for the re-establishment of commercial and diplomatic relations between Cuba and the USSR, Red China, and the popular democracies. The front groups are to present to the Cuban Government demands for resumption of such relations, as has been done in Argentina, Chile, Brazil, and other Latin American countries. In propaganda designed for this purpose quotations from PERON, IBANEZ, and heads of other Latin American governments will be included to stress the advisability of commercial treaties with Communist countries. It is the belief of the PSP that re-establishment of relations with Communist countries will clear the air for the Party and its activities in Cuba.

STATUS OF IMPRISONED LEADERS

7. The situation of the imprisoned leaders and those whose arrest warrants have been outstanding since the Santiago de Cuba uprising in July was discussed. Party instructions were reiterated to the effect that those still at liberty should not present themselves to the courts until restoration of constitutional guarantees. Meanwhile the Party has charged its ablest counsellors with preparing the case for their defense, which will include citing the leaders' continuous statements against conspiracies and the fact that the Party has remained aloof from all such activities.

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